



accelerate phaseout of chlorofluorocarbons (ozone layer depleting chemicals) to end of 1995 (five years earlier than originally affected, and recovered thousands of drums in 4-state area ... EPA announces Common Sense Initiative ... EPA reports

HEALTHY PLANET

T*Technology Transfer in Central and Eastern Europe*

Several Region 7 programs conduct international activities in cooperation with other agencies and foreign governments. These activities recognize the linkage between environmental issues and the creation of new markets for U.S. technology, and the development of equivalent standards for multi-national producers such as agriculture.

Regional staff members have worked on projects in Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine and Russia. These projects involved environmental issues, such as water pollution from agricultural practices in Russia, Poland and the Baltic States. EPA's projects stimulated the adoption of environmentally sound practices based on educational programs, regulatory control and economic incentives.

Poland Agriculture and Water Quality Protection Project

Agriculture and related activities have a direct impact on large segments of the human population and ecological infrastructure of Poland. Poor agricultural and rural waste management practices contribute significantly to the degradation of surface and groundwater quality.

The Poland Agriculture and Water Quality Protection Project (PAWQP) was a four-year effort designed to address agricultural water pollution problems. The PAWQP was a cooperative effort between Region 7 and the Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Food Economy. The project was implemented by the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, and the Institute for Land Reclamation and Grassland Farming near Warsaw, Poland.

Project activities focused on three areas: demonstration of environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices; dissemination of educational information; and development of policies.

The Istra River Basin Small Watershed Management Project

The Istra River Basin Small Watershed Management Project introduced environmental management methods to address water quality problems observed in the Istra River watershed near Moscow, Russia. Evidence provided by Russian agencies indicated that the water supply for the City of Moscow was threatened by contamination. Since the Istra River system

provides about 20 percent of the drinking water for the City, more than 12 million Russian citizens were at risk of health problems. The Istra Project, which officially began in 1995, consisted of four components – environmental education, monitoring, geographic information systems, and agriculture – which were implemented emulating the concept of community-based environmental protection.

Nemunas River Delta – Kursiu Lagoon Project

The Nemunas River drains 73 percent of Lithuania as well as portions of Belarus, Poland, and the Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation. The outflow from the Nemunas River is the Kursiu Lagoon

which has major economic and ecological significance.

Region 7, under a grant from the State Department, initiated this project to develop a scientifically and economically defensible plan to manage the system. A corollary goal was to assist the Lithuanian environmental research and management community in developing the capacity to address environmental problems on an integrated, whole-ecosystem basis through application of state-of-the-art technology.

Great Plains International Data Network

The Great Plains has had significant environmental alterations from human activities over two centuries. The ability of the Great Plains to sustain and replenish itself has become a significant concern.

The general goal of the Great Plains Data Network was to initiate international cooperation between agencies in Canada, the United States and Mexico, and to identify environmental, social and economic challenges facing the Great Plains.

The network will educate its members on data and technical issues through sharing and integrating data. Educating the public on important research results should encourage changes in the management of the Great Plains region.



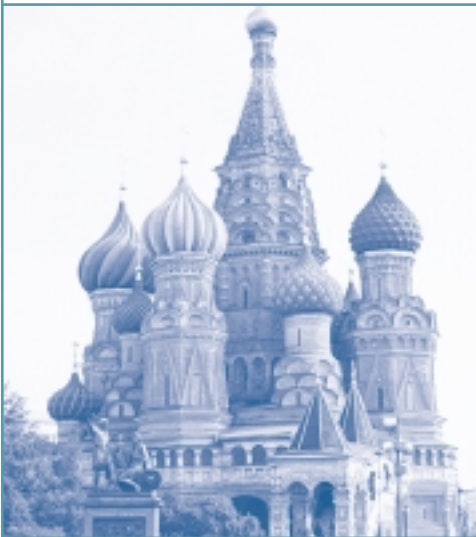
Thailand receives technical assistance from EPA Region 7. Originally the site of an air quality study, Thailand is now receiving help in building other environmental programs.

Redeveloping Abandoned Property: Brownfields

In some areas, properties once used for industrial and commercial purposes have been abandoned and many are contaminated. These areas are called “Brownfields.” Since 1995, EPA has funded 13 cities, counties and colleges for Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots in Region 7. These pilots will test redevelopment models, remove regulatory barriers, and facilitate site assessment, environmental cleanup and redevelopment efforts.

Brownfields Activity in Missouri Lead Belt

The City of Bonne Terre, Missouri, on the northern edge of the Missouri Lead Belt, has suffered economically from the closure of mines more than 20 years ago. Mining waste has contaminated soil and surface



Russia is an area for environmental work by EPA Region 7. Staff helped Russians with agricultural water pollution issues. Pictured is St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square, Moscow.

water in some areas. Bonne Terre residents and potential new businesses are concerned about the potential human health and environmental risks, particularly from the fine lead tailings blown by the wind.

Through its Brownfields effort, Bonne Terre will evaluate potential environmental risks and develop a 140-acre commercial/retail zone plus industrial park on Brownfields that lie near Superfund mine waste properties. The City Council has sanctioned a Bonne Terre Brownfields Committee, including a representative of the Council, the City Manager, the City Economic Development Director, and a representative of the Mineral Area College to carry out the Brownfields project. This Brownfields project will restore otherwise undevelopable land within the city limits into productive use, and create a model plan to help neighboring municipalities facing similar challenges.

Kansas City is a Brownfields Showcase Community

Region 7 opened its Brownfields Showcase Communities project in September 1998. The area, including Kansas City, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri, was selected as one of 16 showcase cities chosen from among 231 applicants nationwide. Unified Government Mayor Carol Marinovich of Kansas City, Kansas, and former Mayor Emmanuel Cleaver of Kansas

5,000th Removal Action Celebration

A celebration was held when the EPA announced its 5,000th removal action at the Great Lakes Container Superfund site, northeast of downtown St. Louis, Missouri, in September 1998. Region 7 celebrated this accomplishment with EPA headquarters and other state and local officials.

The facility, abandoned in 1985, had been a drum reclamation plant. Hundreds of drums, some containing hazardous substances, were illegally buried at the site with trash and used tires dumped on the 11 acres.

Fire at the site in 1995 alerted officials to the hazards and prompted several environmental investigations. Discovered were high levels of lead, polychlorinated biphenyls

City, Missouri, held a “ribbon-tying” ceremony, uniting the cities. Other participants included government officials, business leaders and community groups – all partners in the Brownfields Showcase Communities project.

The Brownfields Showcase Communities project has federal agencies working in partnership with local communities to revitalize urban areas through reuse of Brownfields properties. Kansas City is a national model demonstrating the benefits of a

(PCBs) and other hazardous substances in the soil.

In all, EPA excavated and removed 55,000 tons of contaminated soil; collected 680 drums of hazardous substances; removed asbestos-containing materials; decontaminated and removed buildings, cisterns and tanks; and treated and discharged 580,000 gallons of water.

The site is now restored for potential industrial use, making way for continued economic development in the St. Louis metropolitan area.



Director Michael Sanderson, Region 7 Superfund Division; Timothy Fields, Jr., Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Washington, D.C.; Assistant Regional Administrator Nathaniel (Nat) Scurry, Region 7 Office of Policy and Management; and Region 7 Administrator, Dennis Grams.

focused, coordinated effort to address Brownfields. EPA is providing \$600,000 in funding and technical assistance to the metropolitan area to help the cleanup and redevelopment.